

THE WIDE-AWAKE CIRCLE

Boys' and Girls' Department.

Rules For Young Writers.
1—Write plainly on one side of the paper only, and number the pages.
2—Use pen and ink, not pencil.
3—Short and pointed articles will be given preference. Do not use over 250 words.
4—Original stories or letters only will be used.
5—Write your name, age and address plainly at the bottom of the story.

WIDE-AWAKE POETRY.

A Day's Protest.
When a fellow knows every bird's nest
In the fields for miles around,
Where squirrels play in the sunshine,
Where the prettiest flowers are found;
When he knows of a pair of robins
That will fly to his hand for crumbs,
He hates to be penned in a school room,
And he'd glad when Saturday comes.

There's a bee tree on the hillside,
But I'll not tell anyone where,
There's a school of trout in the mill-stream,
And I want to go fishing there.
I know where an oriole's building,
And a log where a partridge drums,
And I'm going to the woods to see them
As soon as Saturday comes.

They shouldn't keep school in the spring-time,
When the world is so fresh and bright,
When you want to be fishing and climbing,
It's a shame to be kept in a school-room,
Writing and working out sums:
All week it's like being in prison,
And I'm glad when Saturday comes.

USCLE JED'S TALK TO WIDE-AWAKES.
We think we do not like to work—that work is something to be gotten through with so that we can run off to play. It doesn't seem as if we would ever tire of just playing. However, without work we probably would not really enjoy play.

But whether we believe that or not, we are beginning to understand that work has a value which has until lately been underestimated—if not entirely overlooked—a healing value for folks who are sick, particularly those who are sick in their minds.

Hospitals are seeing the value of work for their patients nowadays, and some are trying to provide occupations that will help them to forget themselves in the joy of making something. Work is proving itself to be a great medicine, and it has an advantage, too, that few medicines have—it is good not only for sick but for well people, and it is right at everybody's hand.

Regardless of how much you like to play, it is not believed that there is a Wide-Awake who does not also like to work. It is natural for a Wide-Awake to want to be doing something—the very name indicates it—and play doesn't by any means entirely satisfy that ambition. Those who are bound up in their work are invariably the most contented and the most successful.

LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS.

1—Agnes E. Schreier of Stafford Springs—The Campfire Girls Amid the Snows.
2—Helen T. Greene of Plainfield—Uncle Wiggly's Automobile.
3—Russell Beckwith of South Windham—The Boy Volunteers With the British Artillery.
4—Alice Cyr of Norwich—Sandy Chipmunk.

The winners of prize books living in the city can obtain them by calling at The Bulletin business office after 10 a. m. Thursday.

LETTERS OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Marjorie Williams of Norwich—I received your prize book entitled Sanford and Merton, for which I think you very much. I have read it through twice and found it very interesting.

Eleanor A. Kaminski of Norwich—Many thanks for the prize book which I received. I read it through and found it very interesting.

LETTERS WRITTEN BY WIDE-AWAKES.

Hearing Sousa's Band.
A short time ago Sousa's band was heard in Willimantic, and I was lucky enough to hear it.
I went the day before and stayed with relatives till Thursday afternoon, when the concert was held.
The pieces were fine, especially those including Who's Who in Navy Blue, The Stars and Stripes Forever and Swanee, which Mr. Sousa composed. I felt certain that I never heard anything like it before.

RUSSELL BECKWITH, Age 11.
South Windham.

A Queer Place for Kittens.

Wednesday we heard a kitten crying. We didn't know where it was. Finally we found out it was in the wall. He found father dug a hole in the wall. He found two little kittens. One of the kittens was a tiger kitten. The other was a gray kitten. One was given away. The other was a "drowned" kitten. He found another kitten in the attic.

HADEL KENNEDY, Age 10.
Norwich.

A Long and Nice Trip.

Dear Uncle Jed: Well, here I am back again from my trip out west, and I will try and tell you about it. We had a very nice trip. There were my papa and mamma, my brother Lewis, grandma and grandpa and my friend Esther in our party. Papa drove the car and as we

went almost 200 miles he felt tired; we all felt tired that night and went to bed early. We started at 1 o'clock in the morning and before dark our cousins met us at Calleson, New York state, and led us to their house in Shellsboro, Pa. We

what they call sugar bush, where they make maple syrup in the spring, and we brought several cans home with us. We also brought some nice honey. There are lots and lots of mountains out there.

We went over the top of the Moosic mountain and crossed the Hudson river twice. We saw lots of coal and coal mines, and a great many grand sights.

We had a thunder storm every day or night while we were there. One girl I saw was Eva Gregory, and that we went to Scranton. I met another girl whose name was Romaine Delling. I thought it was a funny name, but she was a nice girl.

My uncle and aunt and I went to a place called Galilee, but not the one it tells about in the Bible. We arrived home safe and sound and found everything all right. My uncle and aunt and I went to a place called Galilee, but not the one it tells about in the Bible. We arrived home safe and sound and found everything all right.

My trip to Mt. Tom.

Dear Uncle Jed: We started at 5 o'clock Sunday morning and had a lovely ride to Springfield and then to Mt. Tom. Then we went up in the car. We looked in some funny mirrors and looked in a telescope and saw Mt. Holyoke. After we had seen all the pretty things we started for home. I would like to go again.

FANNY ROBINSON, Age 9.
Norwich.

A Flemish Dog and His Two Masters.

Patrasche was a Flemish dog. Before he was fully grown he was bought by a tinware peddler, who made him draw a cart full of pots and pans. It was fortunate that Patrasche was very strong, otherwise he would have died under the heavy burdens, the severe lashings, the hunger, the thirst, the blows with which the peddler would have treated him.

One day, the dog was wearily dragging his heavy load when for the first time in his life, he staggered and fell. His master gave him the only medicine he knew of—kicks and blows—and finally left him beside the road to die.

After a time there came along an old man, and very feeble. He looked at the dog, found that he was still alive, and carried it home. The old man tended him with so much care that sickness gave way to health, and Patrasche finally stood up on his four legs. He seemed surprised to hear no curses and to feel no blows from his new master.

The next day after the dog got well and strong he watched the tinware man start off with his milk can. He leaped at the cart, Patrasche walked to it and placed his paw between the shafts. At length the old man allowed the dog to draw the cart, and never did a dog more joyfully to play than this animal went to his daily task.

DIANA DOYON, Age 13.
Glascow.

Confused By the Initials.
It was Valentine Day in Boxville, and all the children the little school were on their way to play and studies. At most every child carried a small envelope in his or her hand.

Gray, Ruth Crown, and Raymond Crane. Rosemary was short and pretty. She had dark curly hair, brown eyes, and a small mouth. Her cousin, Ruth, was a little taller and had light curly hair and light blue eyes. Raymond Crane was about twelve years of age, a year or two older than either girl. His face was covered with freckles, and his hands and feet were so large he never knew what to do with them. He admired both girls but liked Rosemary the better.

All the children had by this time arrived at the schoolhouse. They marched in single file to the front of the room and put their valentines in a large box, then went to their seats. After the roll call the teacher went to the box and as she picked out the valentine and read off the names, the girl or boy to whom it belonged went up and got it.

Rosemary received many valentines, but the one she prized most was a great big one, all paper lace and little red hearts all over it. In one corner were the initials R. C. After school she went to her girl chum, Ruth, and thanked her for the lovely valentine. She had given her, but Ruth only smiled for a moment. Rosemary would come up to him and thank him for the valentine. Then he would ask her if he could take her to the Valentine party at Sophy Exley's house. But the fun was all spoiled now, because he had put his initials on the valentine instead of his full name.

Raymond went home and nearly cried as he thought of school. He was laughing at and teased about it. He knew who was at the bottom of it now. That name of the other boys over put their names on, only their initials, and he had believed her. Now she could laugh at him. But after all the laugh was on her because Rosemary when she heard about it, felt very sorry for him and told him he could take her to the Valentine party that night. So he went home from school happy.

AGNES E. SCHREIER.
Stafford Springs.

Dick in the Trenches.
In the year 1914 Dick Brown, a boy about 18 years of age, was asking his mother's permission to enlist in the army. But his mother would not let him join for he was the only one to support her.

So one day while he was going to work he bought a newspaper and read as follows: "Lusitania Sunk by German Submarine." After thinking it over and thinking it was right to fight for his country, he walked to a recruiting station, and went in. They asked him how old he was and he told them his age and after answering many questions they took him. He enlisted for the United States Infantry to go overseas as soon as possible. He went home and told his mother. She sighed, but after a while she recognized what it meant to go and do his duty. So a few days later Dick said good-bye to his mother and went away. He was ready to start when someone handed him a note. It came from his dear mother and said: "I wish you a lucky voyage and I will pray, day and night, for your safe return home."

After a long voyage of six or seven days they arrived in France and they were ordered to be sent to the trenches the following morning. After a good walk of about 15 miles they reached the trenches and started to fight. They had mud up to their knees. After a month or two he was shot in the arm and was carried to the hospital. He said: "They have shot me but I have killed about thirty of them horrible huns." He was sent home and when he arrived his mother cried with happiness. He died it seemed as if he could never be

pened to look on the left side and saw a gold medal pinned on his coat with a nice red, white and blue ribbon engraved "Croix de Guerre Peltier, Aged 13."

LEO PELTIER, Aged 13.
Taftville.

The Fox.
There was once upon a time a greedy fox, who, in the course of his travels, came to a beautiful garden where he held all kinds of trees laden with juicy fruits. The fox rubbed his stomach at the sight of it. But a very high wall surrounded the garden.

The fox walked around and around in search of an entrance but found only a tiny opening in the wall. This was too small for his big body. "How shall I get in," he growled. He scratched his head and then exclaimed, "I have it, I will fast until my body can squeeze in." So he fasted three days and crawled into the garden. He leaped for joy and ate until it seemed he would burst.

Suddenly he grew pale with fear as he thought of the keeper of the garden. "Suppose he should see me? I am in a fine fix," said the fox. "There is only one way out for me to escape, and that is to fast until I become thin once more." The fox fasted for three days, and after much pain made his escape. When he was out of danger he looked back at the garden and said, "Garden, garden, you are indeed charming. I am so glad that of what benefit are you to me. What have I now for all my suffering and fasting? I am just as lean now as I was when I came here. I shall eat." It is even so with man. We come into the world with nothing and we leave it with nothing. Why do wrong and exult in cunning? We cannot take with us.

SYLVIA ALDFIN, Age 14.
Norwich.

A Much Deserved Dip.
One fine day in winter some boys thought they would go skating on the ice if it would bear them. Bill and Jack were talking, a while when Jack suggested that they call on Charlie as they passed his house. "Hey, Charlie," said Jack. "Come go skating at Brown's pond?" "I think so," said Charlie. "Wait a minute." Soon the three boys trotted off, talking of skating on the pond.

When they reached the pond they put their skates on and began. "Hey, boys," said Jack. "Do you want to see me make a circle in the ice?" "Sure," said Charlie. "I will be well mistaken, for he fell in. He called for help and when Charlie and Bill heard his cries they ran to his rescue. He was held to the ice by his hand. "No more skating for me," said EDITH M. DEWIT, Age 11. Bridgeport.

Esther's Dream.
Last Saturday when I was walking to the store I met Esther, who told me about a remarkable dream she had the night before.

She thought she was coming along the sidewalk when there was a cool into the cellar. She didn't see the hole and fell through. She felt herself going quickly and awoke with a start, to find it was only a dream.

After she finished telling her story we both laughed and Esther said she was glad it was not a real experience. I told her when she had another dream like it to invite more of her friends to enjoy the fun. We then parted after Esther promised she would.

ALICE CYR, Age 10.
Norwich.

Our Sunday School Picnic.
Dear Uncle Jed: Our Sunday school went for a picnic to Ocean Beach on Sunday, and we all had a very good time. We went to Ocean Beach on the steamer Nelsco. We left Norwich at 10 a. m. There was candy, ice cream and other things. We had a very good time. When we got to Ocean Beach I and some friends went to see the merry-go-round. I saw a lot of people in the water.

By this time it was time to eat our lunch. When we had finished our lunch we took a walk. I had a very good time. We went to Ocean Beach on the steamer Nelsco. We left Norwich at 10 a. m. There was candy, ice cream and other things. We had a very good time. When we got to Ocean Beach I and some friends went to see the merry-go-round. I saw a lot of people in the water.

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